

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 2, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 3-8, 11-16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26-28 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 7, 15, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26 are independent claims. Claims 3-6, 8, 11-14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26 have been amended, and claims 27-28 have been added, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-2, 9-10, 17, 19, 21, 23, and 25 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice. Claims 3-8, 11-16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26-28 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

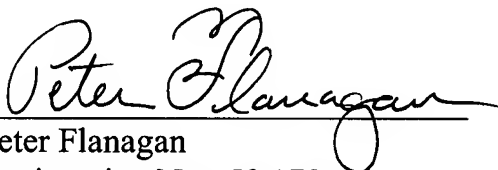
Claims 17, 21, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0033806 of Daniel et al. ("Daniel"). Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 0163851 of Raitola et al. ("Raitola") in view of Daniel. These rejections are moot, and their withdrawal is respectfully requested, because claims 1-2, 9-10, 17, 19, 21, 23, and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26 have been amended to include features analogous to those found in claims 7 and 15, which were not subject to rejection. Claims 3-6, 8, 11-14, and 16 have been amended to depend respectively from claims 7 and 15. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 15 were allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowance. As noted above, claims 3-6, 8, 11-14, and 16 have been amended to depend respectively from claims 7 and 15. Claims 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26 have been amended to include features analogous to those in claims 7 and 15. Newly added claims 27-28 depend from claim 7. Newly added claims 27-28 are supported (for example) by paragraph [0067] of the application as filed. In short, at least for similar reasons to the reasons that claims 7 and 15 have been allowed, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 3-8, 11-16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26-28 are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that all of claims 3-8, 11-16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26-28 be allowed.

If, for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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